



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB™

Performance Events Department

April 2020

To: **All Clubs Licensed to Hold Pointing Breed Hunt Tests**

Subject: **Three Pointing Breed Hunt Test Regulation Updates**

This is to inform your club of three regulation changes effective April 1, 2020. These changes are meant to clarify issues that have arisen in the field. Specifically (1) better define what is meant by “no training on the grounds”, (2) clarify that when two dogs are on point in close proximity to one another, the judges should take control of the situation by instructing one handler to hold up while the other dog completes its bird work, and (3) clarify how to handle the situation where a Junior level dog catches a bird and proceeds to mouth it excessively.

The three specific changes are underlined and will be reflected in the next reprinting of the *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds*.

#1) Chapter 3. Instruction for Hunting Test Committees. Section 9. Training. (page 19)

There shall be no training on the grounds of a Hunting Test on the day of the event prior to its start or during the running of the event. The definition of “the grounds” shall include any area used for the course(s) plus the parking area. Beyond that, the exact determination of “the grounds” is left to the determination of the event committee given the specifics of the location. Once an event has concluded, training is allowed provided it is allowed by the host club and the landowner/managing agency. Exceptions may be granted by the Performance Events Department under special circumstances.

#2) Chapter 5. Test Requirements. Section 1. General Requirements and Instructions. (new paragraph) (page 25)

(N) Courtesy to One’s Bracemate. When two dogs are working in the bird field, the handlers, judges and gunners should be generally aware of the location and actions of the bracemate so as not to interfere with each other. When both dogs are on point in close proximity to each other, the judges should take control of the situation in order to ensure safety and minimize interference. Usually the dog that goes on point last should be asked to hold up until the other dog has completed its bird work. If the first dog is having difficulty, it is up to the judge to decide when the second dog may proceed with its bird work.

Part II. Hunting Test Categories. 5. Retrieving. (New paragraph #9) (page 39)

In a retrieving situation when both dogs are on point in close proximity to each other, the judges should take control of the situation in order to ensure safety and minimize interference. One dog should be asked to hold up until the other dog has completed its bird work. If the first dog is having difficulty, it is up to the judge to decide when the second dog may proceed with its bird work.

#3) Chapter 5. Test Requirements. Section 2. Instructions and Test Requirements for Junior Hunting Test. (page 25)

(4) Trainability: If a Junior dog catches a bird and then proceeds to mouth it excessively, the dog shall receive a lower score in trainability depending on the extent of the fault. Note: This fault is scored under Retrieving in Senior and Master level tests.

This regulation update has been posted to the [Regulation Resource](#) webpage. Please send any questions, comments or email address updates to: performanceevents@akc.org. If you send us a request to update your email address, please provide us your name, city and state.